

2-13-17

The Honorable Gayle Slossberg
14 Honeysuckle Lane
Milford, CT 06461

RE: Inter-district Magnet School Funding: ACES Educational Center for the Arts

Dear Senator Slossberg,

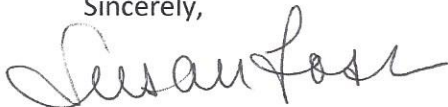
My name is Susan Foss, and I am an educator and a parent who resides in your district. I have been a public school administrator for 10 years, and an educator for the past 20 years. I know firsthand that when budgets are cut, it is often the arts that are lost first. I'm asking that you consider the benefits of the arts when making your decision about funding magnet schools like ACES Educational Center for the Arts.

Data has shown that the arts help our students with creativity, confidence and focus. They give children unique experiences with decision making, collaboration, and visual learning. Most importantly, the arts give students an academic advantage. Studies have shown that students who participate regularly in the arts are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievements than their peers.

My daughter, Jessica, is a 10th grader who attends ACES Educational Center for the Arts. ECA has given her all of the things I wrote about above and more. Jessie has opportunity to use her individual creativity to persevere through challenging dance concepts. She is able to collaborate with students from 27 other towns who share her passion for the art of dance. Jessie gets daily feedback and critique from her teachers who are professionals in their fields. At the same time, Jessie maintains a 4.1 GPA at Foran High School. This would not be possible without ECA. I strongly believe that Jessie's opportunity to participate in the dance program at ECA has contributed to her academic success, her dance success, and her overall success as a young lady.

Cutting funding to ECA would be devastating to my daughter, and to all of the ECA students. Please contact me at bfoss@optonline.net, or at the address below to let me know you will support the arts in education and inter-district magnet school funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Foss".

Susan Foss
6 Timber Trail
Milford, CT 06460